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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/977,746	10/15/2001	David Llewellyn Mallis	09432.183002	3552
22511 7590 03/19/2009 OSHA LIANG L.L.P. TWO HOUSTON CENTER 909 FANNIN, SUITE 3500 HOUSTON, TX 77010				
EXAMINER				
BOCHNA, DAVID				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3679				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
03/19/2009		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/977,746

Applicant(s)

MALLIS ET AL.

Examiner

David E. Bochna

Art Unit

3679

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 March 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 10-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 10-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Blose '081.

In regard to claim 10, Blose '081 discloses a method comprising:

rotationally engaging (threading 12 into 13, as seen from fig. 2 to fig. 1) a pin member 12 and a box member 13, the pin member having an external thread 16 increasing in width in one direction (see col. 6, lines 7-9), the external thread comprising load 22 and stab flanks 21, the box member 13 having an internal thread 18 increasing in width in the other direction, the internal thread comprising load 32 and stab 31 flanks, the pin member and box member defining a positive stop torque shoulder (either 41, 42, or 43, 44 or stepped center shoulder depicted in fig. 6), wherein a torque (rotational force applied to 12 in order to thread 12 into 13) is applied such that plastic deformation of the positive stop torque shoulder (either 41, 42, or 43, 44 or stepped center shoulder depicted in fig. 6) does not occur prior to final makeup (fig. 2 depicts the pin being threaded into the box, which is prior to final makeup, and plastic deformation of the positive stop torque shoulder has not yet occurred, because none of the shoulders are yet in contact in this prior to final makeup position).

In regard to claim 11, wherein the positive stop torque shoulder is disposed at an interface of a box face 42 disposed on the box member and a pin outer diameter shoulder 41 disposed on the pin member.

In regard to claim 12, wherein the positive stop torque shoulder is disposed at an interface of a pin nose 44 disposed on the pin member and a box inner diameter shoulder 43 disposed on the box member.

In regard to claim 13, wherein the external thread of the pin member has a two-step configuration having an outer diameter shoulder, the internal thread of the box member has a two-step configuration having a face (see fig. 6), and the positive stop torque shoulder is disposed at an interface of the box face 42 and the pin outer diameter shoulder 41.

In regard to claim 14, wherein the external thread of the pin member has a two-step configuration having a nose, the internal thread of the box member has a two- step configuration having an inner diameter shoulder (see fig. 6), and the positive stop torque shoulder is disposed at an interface of the pin nose 44 and the box inner diameter shoulder 43.

In regard to claim 15, wherein the internal thread of the pin member has a two-step configuration, the external thread of the box member has a two-step configuration (see fig. 6), and the positive stop torque shoulder is disposed at an interface between the two steps of the pin and box members.

In regard to claim 16, wherein the internal 18 and external threads 16 are adapted to form a metal-to-metal seal (the pin and box crest, stab and load flanks are in contact with each other).

In regard to claim 17, wherein the internal thread 18 of the box member comprises a tapered, internal, generally dovetail-shaped thread having stab flanks, load flanks, roots, and crests.

In regard to claim 18, wherein the external thread 16 of the pin member comprises a tapered, internal, generally dovetail-shaped thread having stab flanks, load flanks, roots, and crests.

In regard to claim 19, a connection (see fig. 1) designed to operate in accordance with the method of claim 10.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 10-19 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David E. Bochna whose telephone number is (571) 272-7078. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5:30 Monday-Thursday and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571) 272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/David E. Bochna/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3679